Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently amended) A viewing management method for managing the viewing of [[a]] media content recorded on an information recording medium readable with a prescribed reproduction device, said method comprising the following steps:

said prescribed reproduction device presenting an acquisition code prerecorded on said information recording medium to a viewer desiring to view a viewing management target media content;

said prescribed reproduction device receiving a password acquired by the viewer from a server computer based on the acquisition code; and

said prescribed reproduction device starting [[the]] reproduction of said viewing management target media content via an authentication process based on the password,

wherein a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is prerecorded on said information recording medium, and

the step of presenting the acquisition code occurs each time a media content reproduction request is received from the viewer and includes:

said prescribed reproduction device generating a random number based on a prescribed random function; and

said prescribed reproduction device selecting and presenting an acquisition code corresponding to the generated random number from the password management table.

2.   (Currently amended) A viewing management method according to claim 1, wherein, when said viewer acquires the password from said server computer, a viewing fee of said viewing management target media content is charged to said viewer.

3.   (Currently amended) A viewing management method for managing the viewing of [[a]] media content recorded on an information recording medium readable with a prescribed reproduction device, comprising the following steps:

a step of said prescribed reproduction device starting to read said information recording medium;

a step of said prescribed reproduction device presenting a prescribed acquisition code to a viewer, and urging the viewer to input a prescribed password;

a step of a prescribed server computer accessed by an information terminal device of said viewer urging the viewer to input the prescribed acquisition code;

a step of said prescribed server computer presenting a password corresponding to said prescribed acquisition code to said viewer upon receiving said prescribed acquisition code from the information terminal device of said viewer;

a step of said prescribed reproduction device performing, upon receiving a prescribed password from said viewer, authentication based on the prescribed password; and

a step of said prescribed reproduction device starting [[the]] reproduction of the media content recorded on said information recording medium when it judges that the prescribed password is valid as a result of said authentication,

wherein a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is recorded on said information recording medium, and

said prescribed reproduction device presents an acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function.

4.   Cancelled.

5.   (Previously presented)   A viewing management method according to claim 3, wherein said server computer comprises a viewing management database containing a table corresponding to said password management table, and

wherein a prescribed password corresponding to the prescribed acquisition code received from the information terminal device of said viewer is specified by referring to said viewing management database, and the prescribed password is presented to said viewer.

6.   (Previously presented) A viewing management method according to any one of claims 3 or 5, wherein a URL for accessing the server computer is recorded on said information recording medium, and

said prescribed reproduction device presents said prescribed acquisition code together with said URL.

7.   (Currently amended) A viewing management method according to claim 3, wherein said viewing management method further comprises a step of urging said viewer to select a viewing management target media content, and

when said viewing management target media content is selected, the prescribed acquisition code corresponding to said selected viewing management target media content is presented.

8.   (Currently amended) A system for reading an information recording medium with a prescribed reproduction device, the system comprising:

a prescribed reproduction device; and

an information recording medium having recorded thereon a viewing management target media content, a prescribed password management table and prescribed control information,

wherein in said prescribed password management table, a prescribed password is associated with a prescribed acquisition code, and

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wherein said prescribed control information contains a control program for said prescribed reproduction device to be capable of performing a plurality of functions, the functions comprising:

said prescribed reproduction device presenting a prescribed acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function to said viewer and urging said viewer to input a prescribed password associated with said presented prescribed acquisition code in said prescribed password management table,

said prescribed reproduction device performing authentication of said input prescribed password when said viewer inputs said prescribed password, and

said prescribed reproduction device reproducing said viewing management target media content according to the result of said authentication.

9.   (New) A viewing management method according to claim 3, wherein said server computer comprises a viewing management database containing a table corresponding to said password management table, said table associating said acquisition code with said password, a title of said media content, a period during which said media content is available, and a fee for viewing said media content.

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10.   (New) A system according to claim 8, wherein said prescribed server computer comprises a viewing management database containing a table corresponding to said password management table, said table associating said acquisition code with said password, a title of said media content, a period during which said media content is available, and a fee for viewing said media content.